



## PERMIT CLEARINGHOUSE

The Framework Agreement called for the establishment of a "permit clearinghouse" to coordinate and facilitate permit applications across all CALFED programs. A Memorandum of Understanding to describe the details of the permit clearinghouse was prepared this year as required by the ROD. The components of the permit clearinghouse process include a permit handbook, a permit tracking database, a non-binding dispute resolution process, and the establishment of permit coordinators. All of these items are underway and will be available to assist CALFED project managers as projects are developed. The permit tracking database will be linked with the CALFED Project Tracking System so that environmental compliance and permitting are integrated with project schedules. The permit handbook will not only assist project managers with permitting matters, but will provide guidance on tiering from the Final Programmatic EIS/EIR and ROD. It will explain how to incorporate the mitigation strategies and monitoring plan adopted in the ROD into project specific environmental documentation.

## PROGRAM TRACKING

CALFED is implementing state-of-the-art project performance tracking software appropriate for controlling the large volume of work among all of its member agencies. Utilizing Primavera Project Planner (P3) and Vianovus Paragon, data from all the projects and milestones will be reported monthly using both internet and web-based technology. While it is no small task to coordinate \$8.7 billion of work over the next seven years between these agencies, the key lies in sound software, experienced staff, and flexibility to accommodate the broad range of projects, agencies, and geography. Standard procedures and contract language are being developed, which will require a consistent set of data from all participants, varying in detail according to the size of the project. Each agency will continue to utilize its existing in-house accounting programs and will provide simplified expenditure and progress data each month over a CALFED website. Data will roll into the master cost and schedule control systems each month, performance data will be generated, and reports provided to management for their action. Procedures will be implemented to control changes to the cost and schedule and to generate forecasts for each project in time to take management action. Reporting on program objectives will be integrated into the Tracking System, and progress reports on cost, schedule, and achievement of targets prepared on a regular basis.

## LITIGATION

Following the certification of the final Programmatic EIS/EIR, three lawsuits were filed challenging the adequacy of that document. The suits, one filed by Regional Council of Rural Counties, Central and South Delta Water Agencies, and several individuals, the second by the Municipal Water District of Orange County, and the third by the California Farm Bureau Federation and several individuals, all seek a revised or new EIS/EIR and a halt to program implementation until such a document has been completed.

Litigation has long been a part of California water policy, including disputes over the management of the Delta. The CALFED Program seeks to move away from policy by litigation in favor of collaborative and comprehensive resource management, and is working to better address the goals and interests of all interested parties. The state and federal CALFED agencies are coordinating their defense of the final programmatic EIS/EIR, and proceeding with implementing the Preferred Program Alternative. Nothing in any of the lawsuits precludes the Program from moving ahead with implementation at this time.